

-2-

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A suspension assembly comprising:
 - a slider body having a trailing edge face;
 - a bond pad positioned on the trailing edge face;
 - a conductive trace connected to the bond pad to form an electrical connection;
 - a heating element including a low resistivity portion and a high resistivity portion, the high resistivity portion positioned proximate the electrical connection; and
 - an insulating component positioned between the conductive trace and the heating element proximate the electrical connection.
2. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion has a smaller thickness than the low resistivity portion.
3. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion includes an undulating pattern positioned proximate the bond pad.
4. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein four bond pads are positioned on the trailing edge face and four conductive traces are connected to the four bond pads to form electrical connections and wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned proximate each of the electrical connections.
5. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally perpendicular to the trailing edge face.

-3-

6. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally parallel to the trailing edge face.

7. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the conductive trace is positioned in a flex circuit.

8. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 7 wherein the conductive trace includes a trace bond pad and a bonding component is positioned on the trace bond pad, the bonding component providing an electrical conduit between the bond pad and the trace bond pad.

9. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 7 wherein the heating element is positioned in the flex circuit.

10. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 9 and further comprising a gimbal assembly attached to the slider.

11. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the heating element is positioned in a flex circuit.

12. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the heating element is adapted to provide heat to a bonding component, the bonding component providing an electrical conduit between the bond pad and the conductive trace.

13. (Original) A suspension assembly comprising:
a slider body having a trailing edge face and at least one bond pad positioned on the trailing edge face; and
means for providing an electrical connection between a conductive trace and the at least one bond pad.

-4-

14. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 13 wherein the means include a heating element having a high resistivity portion and a low resistivity portion.

15. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion has a smaller thickness than the low resistivity portion.

16. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion includes an undulating pattern.

17. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally perpendicular to the trailing edge face.

18. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally parallel to the trailing edge face.

19. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 13 wherein the means for providing are positioned on a flex circuit.

20. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 13 and further comprising means for heating a bonding component to provide an electrical conduit between the conductive trace and the at least one bond pad.

21. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 20 wherein the bonding component is positioned on a portion of the conductive trace.

22-27 Canceled.

-5-

28. (New) A suspension interconnect, comprising:
a conductive element;
a heating element including a low resistivity portion and
a high resistivity portion; and
an insulating component positioned between the conductive
element and the heating element.
29. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 28 wherein the high
resistivity portion has a smaller thickness than the lower
resistivity portion.
30. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 28 wherein the high
resistivity portion includes an undulating pattern.
31. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 28 wherein at least
two bond pads are electrically interconnected to at least two
conductive elements.
32. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 28 and further
comprising a flex circuit including the heating element.
33. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 28 wherein the heating
element is adapted to provide heat to a bonding component,
wherein the bonding component provides an electrical conduit.